



28 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Information for Parents

The World Health Organisation published a statement on 21 August about children and face coverings. They now advise that "children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmissions in the area."

Nationwide, the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of control, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures. Schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances.

On the basis of current evidence, in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. There is greater use of the system of controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms.

At St Gabriel's the following procedure with regard to face masks will be followed:-

Face Masks

Face masks will currently not be compulsory in classrooms unless Government guidelines change again. However, should you wish your child to wear a face mask, this will not be challenged in school, but we ask that you ensure that your child wears a plain mask with no inappropriate images. Face masks are however compulsory on public transport and your child will need to wear a mask on corridors.

Bus Information

Please refer to our website under the parents, letters section for further information relating to school buses. School at present are constantly in touch with the bus companies as we are aware this may be causing both parents and children some anxiety.

Please could all pupils bring their own individual reading book as literacy will be a whole school focus for this academic year.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Corrigan
Headteacher

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

Justice, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Generosity

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